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Third Marine Guard From U.S. Embassy In Moscow Arrested

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WASHINGTON, March 31 — The Marine Corps has arrested a third enlisted man who served as a guard at the American Embassy in Moscow on suspicion that he violated regulations against social contacts with Soviet women, the Pentagon said today.

The enlisted man, Staff Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam, who was arrested Sunday at Camp Pendleton, Calif., has not been charged with spying, and it was not clear if his suspected relations with Soviet women were related to the cases of two marines accused of spying after they had similar encounters.

The arrest of the third marine in the broadening case came as a second marine was formally charged with espionage and as the State Department stepped up its inquiry into security at the embassy in Moscow. The department named the Ambassador to Thailand, William A. Brown, to head its investigation.

Question of Discipline

The pattern of fraternization by Marine guards with Soviet women has raised questions about the discipline in the unit assigned to protect embassies around the world and about the State Department's supervision of the young single men who serve as guards, officials said.

All three of the marines who have been arrested were stationed as guards at the embassy during overlapping periods in 1985 and 1986.

One Government official said Cpl.

Arnold Bracy, whose arrest last week signaled that the case was broad and had severely damaged the embassy's security, had been demoted by the Marine Corps while he was in Moscow because he was known to have met socially with a Russian woman.

The departing Ambassador to Moscow, Arthur A. Hartman, said Monday that fraternization was a breach of regulations and that, had he known of it, he would have viewed it as a ground for sending a Marine guard home.

Corporal Bracy was formally charged today with spying. The charge, which will be adjudicated in a court-martial, asserts that he acted as a partner with a marine arrested in December, Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree.

Corporal Bracy and Sergeant Lonetree are charged with letting Soviet agents into the embassy and providing them blueprints of embassy offices, bags of secret documents and names of American intelligence agents.

The charges against Corporal Bracy are largely based on his statement to investigators, in which he also implicated Sergeant Lonetree, who had previously made a statement incriminating himself, according to Sergeant Lonetree's civilian counsel, William M. Kunstler.

But Corporal Bracy has recanted his initial statement, according to Mr. Kunstler, who has called Sergeant Lonetree's statement a fabrication.

The two men are accused of working as spies for a Soviet agent as a result of having been enticed by Soviet women with whom they had sexual relations, according to Pentagon officials.

The fact that they were compromised in this fashion led to a broad investigation of the other marines who stood guard at the embassy in the same period in 1985 and 1986. This investigation led to the arrest of Sergeant Stufflebeam on Sunday, according to the Pentagon spokesman, Robert B. Sims.

Sergeant Stufflebeam, 24 years old, who was an assistant commander of the guard detachment in Moscow, "is suspected of having associations with Soviet women on several occasions," Mr. Sims said.

Contacts Must Be Reported

Regulations call for the guards to report all contacts with foreign citizens, Mr. Sims said. Direct involvement of Sergeant Stufflebeam in the Bracy-Lonetree espionage case has not been established, he said, but the possibility is under investigation.

All marines now assigned to Moscow have been recalled for new assignments, but questions remain about their supervision.

Marine Corps officials have privately suggested that the State Department's security officer at the embassy,

who was directly in charge of the marines, had not kept a tight rein on them.

A State Department spokeswoman, Phyllis Oakley, said today that the Marines' detachment commander, a non-commissioned officer, reported to three civilian embassy officials — a regional security officer and his two assistants.

She said all personnel involved in embassy security were being examined in the investigation of the spying episodes. But she said the civilian officials in charge of security had not been recalled as part of the investigation. She said it was possible that the individuals who held these jobs in 1985 and 1986 were posted elsewhere, but she said that she did not know this with certainty and that the State Department would not make public their names.

According to charges of espionage filed against Sergeant Lonetree and Corporal Bracy, they acted together to allow Soviet agents to go inside the embassy's most secure areas, including its communications room, where cryptographic information is stored, and the offices of the military attaché.

Ambassador Brown, recalled from Thailand temporarily to head the State Department's investigation, is a career Foreign Service officer who once served in Moscow as an economics officer. He will supervise a review of embassy security in which "the performance of all involved is under review," Ms. Oakley said.